

citizens. The subject of the Indian policy and treatment is so fully set forth by the Secretary of the Interior, and the views so fully expressed therein, that I refer to their reports and recommendations as my own.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue on a friendly footing. Questions have arisen from time to time in the foreign relations of the Government, but the United States have happily freed the past year from the contentions and embarrassments which have surrounded some of the foreign powers. The diplomatic correspondence submitted herewith, contains information as to certain of the matters which have occupied the Government.

The cordiality which attends our relations with the Powers of the earth has been plainly shown by the general participation of foreign nations in the Exhibition which has just closed, and by the cordial and friendly relations which have shown their interest and friendship toward the United States in the commemoration of the Centennial of the Nation. The Government and people of the United States have not only fully appreciated the exhibition of kindly feeling, but it may be justly and fairly expected that no small benefits will result both to ourselves and others from a better acquaintance and a better appreciation of our mutual advantages and mutual wants.

FALSE ECONOMY.

Congress, at its last session, saw fit to reduce the amount usually appropriated for foreign intercourse, by withholding appropriations from representatives of the United States in certain foreign countries, and for certain Consular offices, and by reducing the amounts usually appropriated for certain other diplomatic posts, and thus necessitating a change in the grade of the representative. For these reasons, immediately upon the passage of the bill making appropriations for the diplomatic and consular service for the present fiscal year, instructions were issued to representatives of the United States at Bolivia, Ecuador and Columbia, and to the Consular officers for whom no appropriation had been made to close their respective legations and consulates and cease from the performance of their duties and in like manner steps were immediately taken to substitute charge d'Affaires for Ministers Resident in Portugal, Denmark, Greece, Switzerland and Paraguay. While thoroughly impressed with the wisdom of sound economy in the foreign service, as in other branches of the Government, I cannot escape the conclusion that in some instances the withholding of appropriations will prove an expensive economy, and that the small retrenchment secured by a change of grade in certain diplomatic posts is not an adequate consideration for the loss of influence and importance which will attend our foreign representatives under this reduction. I am of the opinion that a re-examination of the subject to the Court which has been referred to in the conclusions reached on these subjects at the last session of Congress.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The Courts of Commissioners of the Alabama Claims, whose functions were continued by an Act of the last session of Congress until the first day of January, 1877, has carried on its labors with diligence and general satisfaction. The report of the Court, transmitted herewith, bearing date, November 14, 1876, it appears that within the time now allowed by law the Court will have disposed of all the claims presented for consideration. This report also contains a statement of the general results of the labors of the Court to the date thereof. It is a cause of satisfaction that the method adopted for the satisfaction of the classes of claims submitted to the Court, which has been standing and justly entitled to early consideration, should have proved successful and acceptable.

BOUNDARY LINES.

It is with satisfaction that I am enabled to state that the work of the joint commission for determining the boundary line between the United States and Great Britain, which was organized by the Act of the 20th of March, 1872, has been completed. The final agreement of the Commissioners with the maps, have been duly signed, and the work of the commission is complete. The official list of monuments, the original list of astronomical stations, and the original list of monuments, have been deposited in the Department of State. The official report of the Commissioners on the part of the United States, and the report of the Chief Astronomer of the United States will be submitted to Congress in a short time.

FUGITIVE CRIMINALS.

I reserve for a separate communication to Congress, a statement of the condition of the questions which lately arose with Great Britain respecting the surrender of fugitive criminals under the treaty of 1842.

RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND EGYPT.

The Ottoman Government gave notice under date of January 15, 1874, of its desire to terminate the treaty of 1830, concerning commerce and navigation, and the provisions of the 23d article thereof. Under this notice the treaty terminated upon the 5th day of June, 1876. That Government has invited negotiations towards the conclusion of a new treaty. By the President's authority, he should receive satisfactory information that the Ottoman Government or that of Egypt has organized new tribunals likely to secure the rights of the United States and the exercise of judicial functions by diplomatic and consular officers of the United States, to suspend the operation of the Act of June 22, 1860, and to accept for citizens of the United States the jurisdiction of the new tribunals. Satisfactory information having been received of the organization of such new tribunals in Egypt, I caused a proclamation to be issued upon the 27th of March suspending the operation

of the Act of June 22, 1860, in Egypt, according to the provisions of the Act. A copy of the proclamation accompanies this Message. The United States are united with the other Powers in the circumstances, abandon their citizenship and become entitled to the protection of the United States, but continue on convenient occasion to assert a claim to protection. In the absence of provisions on these questions and in this connection, I again invite your attention to the necessity of legislation concerning the marriages of American citizens contracted abroad, and concerning the status of American women who marry foreigners, and of children born of American parents in a foreign country. The delicate and complicated questions continually occurring with reference to naturalization, expatriation, and the status of such persons as I have above referred to, induce me to earnestly direct your attention again to these subjects. In the mean time I repeat my recommendation that some means be provided for the hearing and determination of the just claims of aliens upon the Government of the United States, within a reasonable limit of time, and that the Government be authorized to employ such means as may be necessary for the purpose.

THE HAWAIIAN TREATY.

The necessary legislation to carry into effect the convention respecting commercial reciprocity, concluded with the Hawaiian Islands in 1875, having been had, the provisions to carry into effect the convention as provided by the Act approved August 15, 1876, was duly issued upon the 9th day of September last. A copy thereof accompanies this Message.

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

The communications which have been prevalent in Mexico for some time past, and which unhappily seem not to be wholly quieted, have led to complaints of citizens of the United States of injuries by persons in and out of Mexico. It is hoped, however, that these will ultimately be adjusted to the satisfaction of both Governments. The frontier of the United States in this quarter has not been exempt from acts of violence by citizens of one Republic toward the citizens of the other. The frequency of these is supposed to be increased and their adjustment made more difficult by the considerable changes in the course of the lower part of the Rio Grande river, which river is a part of the boundary between the United States and Mexico. These changes have placed on either side of that river portions of land which, by existing conventions, belong to the jurisdiction of the Government on the opposite side of the river. The subject of adjustment of this cause of difficulty is under consideration between the two Republics.

PAYMENT OF AWARD.

The Government of the United States of Columbia has paid the award in the case of the steamer *Montezuma*, seized by the authorities of that Government some years since, and the amount has been transferred to the claimants.

MEXICAN CLAIMS COMMISSION.

It is with satisfaction that I am able to announce that the Joint Commission for the adjustment of claims between the United States and Mexico, under the Convention of 1868, the duration of which has been several times extended, and which is laboring to close. From the report of the agent of the United States, which accompanies the papers transmitted herewith, it will be seen that 1,017 claims on the part of citizens of the United States against Mexico were referred to the Commission. Of these claims 831 were dismissed or disallowed, and in 186 cases awards were made in favor of the claimants against the Mexican Republic, amounting in the aggregate to \$4,125,622.20. Within the same period 998 claims on the part of citizens of Mexico against the United States were referred to the Commission. Of these claims, 831 were dismissed or disallowed, and in 167 cases awards were made in favor of the claimants against the United States, amounting in the aggregate to \$150,498.41. By the terms of the Convention, the amount of these awards is to be deducted from the amount awarded in favor of the citizens of the United States, the balance only to be paid by Mexico to the United States, leaving the United States to make provision for this proportion of the awards in favor of their own citizens. I invite your attention to the fact that the time for the payment of the awards will be extended to the 29th day of January, 1877. In accordance with the resolution of August 15, 1876, the army regulations prepared under the Act of March 1, 1875, have been promulgated, and are held until after the report of the above mentioned commission shall have been received and acted on. By the Act of August 15, 1876, the cavalry force of the army was increased by 2,300 men, and it is expected that they should be discharged on the expiration of hostilities. Under this authority the cavalry has been strengthened, and a portion of them are now in the field pursuing the remnants of the Indian army, which has been engaged during the summer. The estimates of the War Department are made up on the basis of the number of men authorized by law and their requirements, as shown by years of experience, and also with the purpose of providing for the contingencies which may arise during the time for which the estimates are made, exclusive of engineer estimates, presented in accordance with Acts of Congress, calling for surveys and estimates of the cost of various localities. The estimates now presented are about \$6,000,000 in excess of the appropriation for the years 1874, 1875 and 1876. This increase is asked in order to provide for the increased cavalry force, should the war be continued, and to provide for the economical working upon important public buildings; to provide for armament of fortifications and manufacture of small arms, and to replenish the working stock in the supply departments. The appropriations for these last named purposes have been at the rate of nearly 2 per cent. per annum.

THE ARMY.

The report of the Postmaster-General shows the excess of expenditures, excluding expenditures on account of previous years, over receipts for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1877, at \$1,071,684; estimated expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1878, are \$3,723,432.43; estimated revenues for the same period, \$30,645,165.00, leaving an estimated excess of expenditures to be appropriated for the year ending June 30, 1878, of \$1,071,684. The Postmaster-General like his predecessor, is convinced that a change in the basis of adjusting the salaries of Postmasters of the fourth class is necessary for the good of the service, and he respectfully recommends that the compensation of the class of Postmasters above mentioned be based on the business of their respective offices as ascertained from the sworn returns to the Auditor of the Post Office. A few persons in the Southern States have expressed very great apprehension of their own personal safety on account of their connection with the postal service, and have especially requested that their reports of the Post Office be made public. It should be made public but it should not be made public in the hands of the Post Office. The Postmaster-General is of the opinion that the compensation of the class of Postmasters above mentioned be based on the business of their respective offices as ascertained from the sworn returns to the Auditor of the Post Office. A few persons in the Southern States have expressed very great apprehension of their own personal safety on account of their connection with the postal service, and have especially requested that their reports of the Post Office be made public. It should be made public but it should not be made public in the hands of the Post Office. The Postmaster-General is of the opinion that the compensation of the class of Postmasters above mentioned be based on the business of their respective offices as ascertained from the sworn returns to the Auditor of the Post Office.

VENUE INDEBTEDNESS.

Monthly payments of a very small part of the amount due by the government of Venezuela to citizens of the United States, in payment of claims against the latter, have been made by the latter against that government, continue to be made with reasonable punctuality. That government has proposed to change the system which it has hitherto pursued in this respect, by issuing bonds for part of the amount due to the citizens of the United States, and by the balance to be paid by the latter against that government, continue to be made with reasonable punctuality. That government has proposed to change the system which it has hitherto pursued in this respect, by issuing bonds for part of the amount due to the citizens of the United States, and by the balance to be paid by the latter against that government, continue to be made with reasonable punctuality. 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